

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IGA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 MC-02 AID-05 ACDA-07
/073 W

-----141155Z 000738 /44

P 141045Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6065

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 1420

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, TC
SUBJ: PATROL BOATS FOR DUBAI POLICE

REF: (A) STATE 108257, (B) 76 ABU DHABI A-72

1. IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS POSED PARA TWO OF REFTEL
EMBASSY SUBMITS FOLLOWING:

A. BOATS OF THIS CLASS AND MISSION ARE APPROPRIATE
TO UAE. GIVEN THE SIZE AND IMPORATNACE OF THE EMIRATE OF
DUBAI AND ITS PORT(S) AND COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY, DUBAI POLICE
DO REQUIRE PATROL CRAFT FOR USE IN CONTROLLING SHIPPING,
IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS WITHIN THE EMIRATE. IN FACT DUBAI
ALREADY HAS TWO "SWIFT" BOATS.

B. ALTHOUGH THERE IS OFFICIAL UAE FEDERAL POLICY IIMED
AT COORDINATING DEFENSE PROCUREMENT (REF B), THERE HAS
BEEN NO REPEAT NO ANNOUNCEMENT CIRCULATED RESTRICTING
POLICE AND PUBLIC SECURITY PROCUREMENT BY INDIVIDUAL
EMIRATES OR CONFERRING SOLE RESPONSIBILITY ON FEDERAL
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR (MININT) IN THE PUBLIC SAFETY AREA.
ALTHOUGH POLICE FORCES IN EMIRATES WERE SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN
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"AMALGAMATED" UNDER MININT, THIS "UNIFICATION" IS
ANOTHGER EXAMPLE OF FEDERALIZATION IN THEORY BUT NOT
IN PRACTICE. IN FACT, DUBAI HAS STEADFASTLY REFUSED
TO SUBORDINATE ITS POLICE (INCLUDING ITS SUBSTANTIAL
POLICE AIR WING) TO FEDERAL OPERATIONAL CONTROL.
DUBAI POLICE COOPERATE WITH FEDERAL AUTHORITIES, BUT
THAT IS ALL. REFLECTING THESE FACTS OF LIFE, MININT

HANDLES POLICE PROCUREMENT ONLY FOR ALL THE SMALLER EMIRATES, NOT REPEAT NOT FOR ABU DHABI AND DUBAI WHICH DO THEIR OWN.

2. RE POSSIBILE ARMING THESE CRAFT, SCRUTINY OF TWO "SWIFT" CRAFT NOW IN DUBAI DOES NOT REVEAL PRESENCE OF REINFORCED DECK PLATING INSTALLED TO ACCOMODATE LARGER CREW SERVED WEAPONS. EMBASSY AGREES, HOWEVER, WITH DEPARTMENT OBSERVATION THAT DUBAI POLICE COULD VERY EASILY RETROFIT WITH EUROPEAN ARMAMENT.

3. EARLIER IN YEAR TWO DUBAI POLICE OFFIERS TRAVELED TO NEW ORLEANS TO VISIT SWIFT BOATS. SUSPECT ORDER FOR TWO ADDITIONAL PATROL CRAFT DIRECT RESULT OF THIS ZEEAXWKRU85 IN SUM EMBASSY CAN SEE NO OBJECTION TO ISSUANCE OF EXPORT LICENSE TO SWIFTSHIPS INC. IT STRIKES US AS A GOOD COMMERCIAL SALE FITTING LEGITIMATE NEED IN THE CONTEXT OF CURRENT STATE OF UAE FEDERAL STRUCTURE. DICKMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY SALES, POLICE FORCES, NAVAL SHIPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ABUDH01420
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770170-1160
Format: TEL
From: ABU DHABI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770559/aaaabyen.tel
Line Count: 81
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 474bd593-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 108257, 76 ABU DHABI A-72
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2524385
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PATROL BOATS FOR DUBAI POLICE
TAGS: MASS, TC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/474bd593-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009